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DIRECTORATE OF  
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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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South Vietnam: The tempo of Communist military activity picked up over the weekend with increased shellings and several sizable ground attacks, but a major enemy effort timed to coincide with the antiwar activities in the US failed to materialize.

The most damaging attack took place near An Khe, where an undetermined number of sappers penetrated the defensive perimeter of Camp Radcliffe late on 15 November. Before the attackers were forced to withdraw, they destroyed 14 helicopters and damaged two others. American casualties totaled one killed and 11 wounded.

Fighting remained heavy near Bu Prang and Duc Lap over the weekend, with the enemy launching numerous shellings and several ground attacks. In one battle, South Vietnamese infantrymen killed 103 Communist troops while losing six killed and eight wounded.  (Map)

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India: The warring factions of the ruling Congress Party have moved closer to a final split.

Yesterday, about 100 of the party's parliamentary delegation, who are opposed to Prime Minister Gandhi, elected their own leadership under former deputy prime minister Morarji Desai. Desai resigned from the cabinet last July during an intraparty fight over bank nationalization and the nomination of a presidential candidate.

Mrs. Gandhi probably has enough strength to win a vote of confidence in Parliament which opens today. If her party remains divided, however, she may require the help of the leftist opposition parties to stay in power.

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Communist China: Peking's campaign to normalize relations with Western trading partners is part of its current effort to boost trade to pre-Cultural Revolution levels.

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the Chinese are more businesslike and less interested in expounding on Maoist virtues than at previous fairs. Early reports on trading suggest that the level of trade will be much higher than at the spring fair. Japan, for example, expects two-way trade to reach an all-time high of \$160 million, primarily because of Chinese purchases of machinery, steel, and chemicals.

Improved relations with the Western traders, who account for about 80 percent of China's trade, will give impetus to the gradual recovery in Chinese trade that began in mid-1968. Preliminary estimates suggest that total trade in 1969 may reach \$4 billion, up ten percent from the 1968 level. Chinese trade had declined from a peak of \$4.3 billion in 1966 to \$3.6 billion last year.

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Tunisia: University students are becoming more hostile toward the government and the ruling party.

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[redacted] there has been adverse reaction among students at the University of Tunis over economic czar Ahmed ben Salah's ouster from the government and the Destourian Socialist Party earlier this month. Ben Salah has long been popular among students because of his support for them, and because of his socialist orientation and economic reforms.)

(Student hostility toward the government is also directed at President Bourguiba, whose personal attack on Ben Salah is strongly resented. Bourguiba, in a half-hour speech before taking the oath of office on 10 November, charged that Ben Salah had been carried away by his "thirst for power" and accused him of "demagogic" action. Bourguiba's critics, recalling the President's strong backing earlier this year for Ben Salah's agricultural reforms, considered Bourguiba's "explanation" hypocritical.)

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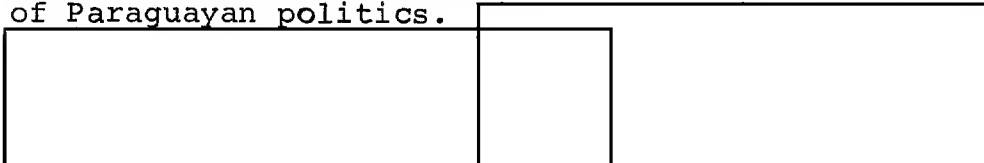
Paraguay: The Stroessner government is confronted with a Catholic hierarchy committed to economic and social reforms and willing to do battle on related political issues.

The current contention revolves around the government's handling of student demonstrations. The students, with the participation of some priests and nuns, have been protesting the continued detention of a handful of student agitators.

On 22 October, the government deported a Spanish Jesuit accused of illegal activity, and on the same day several priests were beaten by police who were breaking up a lay/clergy procession. The council of bishops retaliated by excommunicating the officials involved and in turn the government closed the church's semiofficial weekly newspaper. Behind-the-scenes efforts to mediate have proved fruitless as church and government officials, including President Stroessner, continue to exchange recriminations.

This is not the first issue on which the church has set itself in opposition to the regime. Last August the church surprised the government by taking a hard stand against a proposed law "for the defense of democracy" and threatened to excommunicate all legislators voting for the potentially repressive security measure.

In a country where political compromise is rare, the dispute is likely to sputter on and could weaken the administration's position as sole arbiter of Paraguayan politics.

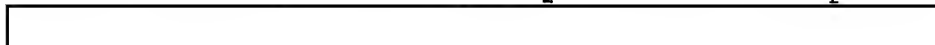


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NOTE

Arab States - Israel: The sabotaging of two Israeli ships in Eilat harbor early yesterday was carried out by Egyptian frogmen, apparently from the nearby Jordanian port of Aqaba. The Israelis are extremely sensitive to any threat to the port, which is their only trade outlet to the Far East as well as the main supply route for Israel's oil imports. Terrorist attacks on Eilat have in the past brought Israeli reprisals on Aqaba, and this latest incident is not likely to be an exception.



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